In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-28 and add new claims 29-46 as indicated..

1. (Cancel) A method of treating hypertension in a mammal, which has experienced intrauterine under nutrition and/or growth retardation or an adverse post natal environment, the method comprising the step of administering to the mammal an effective amount of growth hormone, wherein said amount is effective to reduce blood pressure in said mammal.

2. (Cancel) A method of treating hypertension in a mammal, which has experienced intrauterine under nutrition and/or growth retardation or an adverse post natal environment, the method comprising the step of administering to the mammal an effective amount of a growth hormone selected from the group consisting of human growth hormone, bovine growth hormone, rat growth hormone or porcine growth hormone.

3. (Cancel) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the mammal has experienced an adverse postnatal environment comprising a hypocaloric or hypercaloric diet.

4. (Cancel) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the mammal is an adult mammal.

5. (Cancel) A method as claimed claim 4 wherein the mammal is an adult human.

6. (Cancel) A method as claimed in claim 5 wherein said growth hormone is human growth hormone.

7. (Cancel) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the growth hormone is administered to the mammal in combination with a second anti-hypertensive agent.

8. (Cancel) A method of treating hypertension in a mammal, which has experienced intrauterine under nutrition and/or growth retardation or an adverse postnatal environment, the method comprising the step of increasing the effective concentration of growth hormone in the mammal, wherein said step of increasing is sufficient to decrease blood pressure.

9. (Cancel) A method as claimed in claim 8 wherein the mammal has experienced an adverse postnatal environment comprising a hypocaloric or hypercaloric diet.

10. (Cancel) A method as claimed in claim 8 wherein the effective concentration of the growth hormone, is increased through administration of an agent which either stimulates production of growth hormone or which lessens or prevents inhibition of growth hormone activity.

11. (Cancel) A method as claimed in claim 8 wherein the effective concentration of growth hormone is increased through direct administration of growth hormone.

12. (Cancel) A method as claimed in claim 8 wherein the mammal is an adult human.

13. (Cancel) The method of claim 7, wherein said second anti-hypertensive agent is an angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor.

14. (Cancel) The method of claim 13, wherein said angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor is quinapril.

15. (Cancel) The method of claim 8, wherein said step of increasing the effective concentration of growth hormone is carried out by administering a growth hormone releasing peptide (GHRP).

16. (Cancel) The method of claim 15, wherein said GHRP is selected from the group consisting of GHRP-1, GHRP-2, GHRP-6, hexarelin, G-7039, G7502, L-692,429, L-692,585 and L-163,191.

17. (Cancel) The method of claim 8, wherein said step of increasing the effective concentration of growth hormone is carried out by administering growth hormone releasing hormone (GHRH).

18. (Cancel) The method of claim 8, wherein said step of increasing the effective concentration of growth hormone is carried out by administering an inhibitor of a growth hormone antagonist.

19. (Cancel) The method of claim 18, wherein said inhibitor is somatostatin release inhibitor factor.

20. (Cancel) The method of claim 7, wherein said second anti-hypertensive agent is an angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor.

21. (Cancel) The method of claim 20, wherein said angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor is quinapril.

22. (Cancel) The method of claim 8, wherein said step of increasing the effective concentration of growth hormone is carried out by administering a growth hormone releasing peptide (GHRP).

23. (Cancel) The method of claim 22, wherein said GHRP is selected from the group consisting of GHRP-1, GHRP-2, GHRP-6, hexarelin, G-7039, G7502, L-692,429, L-692,585 and L-163,191.

24. (Cancel) The method of claim 8, wherein said step of increasing the effective concentration of growth hormone is carried out by administering growth hormone releasing hormone (GHRH).

25. (Cancel) The method of claim 8, wherein said step of increasing the effective concentration of growth hormone is carried out by administering an inhibitor of a growth hormone antagonist.

26. (Cancel) The method of claim ~~18~~ 25, wherein said inhibitor is somatostatin release inhibitor factor.

27. (Cancel) The method of claim 1, wherein the dose of said growth hormone is in the range of
about 0.1 μg/kg/day to
about 1 mg/kg/day.

28. (Cancel) The method of claim 1, wherein said blood pressure is systolic blood pressure.

Please add the following new claims.

29. (New) A method for treating hypertension in a mammal, comprising administering to the mammal an amount of growth hormone sufficient to reduce systolic blood pressure, wherein said mammal has a history of one or more of low birth weight, intrauterine undernutrition, growth retardation, hypercaloric diet, hypocaloric diet, placental insufficiency and substance abuse, wherein said mammal has no growth hormone deficiency.

30. (New) The method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the mammal is an adult mammal.

31. (New) The method as claimed claim 30, wherein the mammal is an adult human.

32. (New) The method as claimed in claim 31 wherein the said growth hormone is human growth hormone.

33. (New) The method as claimed in claim 29 wherein the growth hormone is administered to the mammal in combination with a second anti-hypertensive agent.

34. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the said second anti-hypertensive agent is an angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor.

35. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein said angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor is quinapril.

36. (New) A method for treating hypertension in a mammal, which has a history of one or more of low birth weight, intrauterine undernutrition, growth retardation, hypercaloric diet, hypocaloric diet, placental insufficiency and substance abuse, wherein said mammal has no growth hormone deficiency, comprising the step of increasing the effective concentration of growth hormone in the mammal, wherein said step of increasing is sufficient to decrease systolic blood pressure.

37. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein the mammal has experienced an adverse postnatal environment comprising a hypocaloric or hypercaloric diet.

38. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein the effective concentration of the growth hormone, is increased through administration of an agent which either stimulates production of growth hormone or which lessens or prevents inhibition of growth hormone activity.

39. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein the effective concentration of growth hormone is increased through direct administration of growth hormone.

40. (New) The method as claimed in claim 36, wherein the mammal is an adult human.

41. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein the said step of increasing the effective concentration of growth hormone is carried out by administering a growth hormone releasing peptide (GHRP).

42. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein said GHRP is selected from the group consisting of GHRP-1, GHRP-2, GHRP-6, hexarelin, G-7039, G7502, L-692,429, L-692,585 and L-163,191.

43. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein the said step of increasing the effective concentration of growth hormone is carried out by administering a growth hormone releasing hormone (GHRH).

44. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein the said step of increasing the effective concentration of growth hormone is carried out by administering an inhibitor of a growth hormone antagonist.

45. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein the said inhibitor of a growth hormone antagonist is somatostatin release inhibitor factor.

46. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein the dose of said growth hormone is in the range of

about 0.1 μg/kg/day to

about 1 mg/kg/day.